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Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 - Expedited Examining Procedure

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Serial No.: 10/643,771

Confirmation No.: 4116

Filed: 19 August 2003

For: DENTAL CROWN FORMS AND METHODS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Currently Amended) A dental crown form comprising:
a body defining [[a]] an anatomically tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base;
hardenable dental material for forming a dental crown located within the tooth-shaped volume; and
a handle attached to the body at a location removed from the base.
2. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 1, wherein the handle is attached to the body at a location that is closer to the incisal/occlusal region than the base.
3. (Currently Amended) A dental crown form according to claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a hollow handle, wherein the hollow handle defines a handle volume that is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume of the body through a vent opening formed in the body, and wherein the handle volume is not filled with the hardenable dental material.
4. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 3, wherein the handle comprises a hollow tubular handle.
5. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 3, wherein the handle comprises a scaled tip distal from the body.
6. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 3, wherein the handle volume is 5% or more of the tooth-shaped volume.

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7. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 1, wherein the dental crown form is located within a hermetically sealed package.
8. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 1, wherein the dental crown form is located within an actinic light barrier package.
9. (Currently Amended) A dental crown form comprising:
a body defining ~~[[a]]~~ an anatomically tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base;
hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume;
a hollow handle attached to the body at a location that is closer to the incisal/occlusal region than the base, wherein the handle defines a handle volume that is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume of the body through a vent opening formed in the body, and wherein the handle volume is not filled with the hardenable dental material.
10. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 9, wherein the handle volume is 5% or more of the tooth-shaped volume.
11. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 9, wherein the dental crown form is located within a hermetically sealed package.
12. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 9, wherein the dental crown form is located within an actinic light barrier package.

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13. (Currently Amended) A dental crown form comprising:
a body defining [[a]] an anatomically tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base; and
a hollow handle attached to the body at a location removed from the base, wherein the hollow handle is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume through a vent opening formed in the body.
14. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 13, further comprising hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume.
15. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 14, wherein the dental crown form is located within a hermetically sealed package.
16. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 14, wherein the dental crown form is located within an actinic light barrier package.
17. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 13, wherein the handle is attached to the body at a location that is closer to the incisal/occlusal region than the base.
18. (Original) A dental crown form according to claim 13, wherein the handle volume is 5% or more of the tooth-shaped volume.
19. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form comprising:
a body defining a tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base; and
one or more lines of weakness formed in the body.

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20. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, wherein each line of weakness of the one or more lines of weakness comprises a notch formed at one end thereof.
21. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, wherein each line of weakness of the one or more lines of weakness extends from proximate the base towards the incisal/occlusal region of the body.
22. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, wherein the one or more lines of weakness comprises only one line of weakness extending from proximate the base on one side of the body, over the incisal/occlusal region, and terminating proximate the base of an opposing side of the body.
23. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, further comprising a release coating on an inner surface of the of the body.
24. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, further comprising a liner located within the body of the dental crown form.
25. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 24, wherein the one or more lines of weakness comprise one or more perforations formed through the body.
26. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 24, wherein the dental crown form further comprises photocurable hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body, and wherein the liner is transmissive to actinic radiation capable of hardening the photocurable hardenable dental material.

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27. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 26, wherein the body comprises an actinic light barrier to the actinic radiation capable of hardening the photocurable hardenable dental material.
28. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, further comprising one or more tabs attached to the body.
29. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, further comprising two tabs attached to the body, wherein the two tabs are located on opposing sides of the body.
30. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 29, wherein the two tabs are attached to the body proximate the base.
31. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 29, wherein the two tabs are attached to the body proximate the incisal/occlusal region.
32. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, further comprising a hollow handle attached to the body, wherein the hollow handle is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume through a vent opening formed in the body.
33. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 32, wherein the handle is attached to the body at a location closer to the incisal/occlusal region than the base.
34. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 32, wherein the handle volume is 5% or more of the tooth-shaped volume.

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35. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, wherein the dental crown form further comprises hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume and is located within a hermetically sealed package.

36. (Withdrawn) A dental crown form according to claim 19, wherein the dental crown form further comprises hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume and is located within an actinic light barrier package.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a dental crown, the method comprising:
providing a dental crown form that comprises a body defining a tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base, wherein the dental crown form further comprises a handle attached to the body at a location removed from the base;
providing hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body of the dental crown form;
locating the dental crown form over a prepared tooth;
hardening the hardenable dental material to form a dental crown; and
removing the dental crown form.

38. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, wherein the handle is attached to the body at a location that is closer to the incisal/occlusal region than the base.

39. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, wherein the handle comprises a hollow handle defining a handle volume that is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume of the body through a vent opening formed in the body, and wherein the method further comprises forcing a portion of the hardenable dental material into the handle volume when locating the dental crown form over the prepared tooth.

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40. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 39, wherein substantially all of the hardenable dental material is retained within the body or the hollow handle after locating the dental crown form over the prepared tooth.
41. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 39, wherein the handle comprises a sealed tip distal from the body, and further wherein the method comprises venting the sealed tip before locating the dental crown form over the prepared tooth.
42. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, wherein the method comprises removing the dental crown form before hardening the hardenable dental material.
43. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 42, further comprising shaping the hardenable dental material after removing the dental crown form and before hardening the hardenable dental material.
44. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, wherein the method comprises removing the dental crown form after at least partially hardening the hardenable dental material.
45. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, further comprising removing the dental crown form from a hermetically sealed package with the hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body before the dental crown form is removed from the package.
46. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 37, further comprising removing the dental crown form from an actinic light barrier package with the hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body before the dental crown form is removed from the package.

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47. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a dental crown, the method comprising:
- providing a dental crown form that comprises a body defining a tooth-shaped volume, the body comprising a base and an incisal/occlusal region distal from the base, the dental crown form further comprising one or more lines of weakness formed in the body;
 - providing hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body of the dental crown form;
 - locating the dental crown form over a prepared tooth;
 - hardening the hardenable dental material to form a dental crown; and
 - removing the dental crown form by separating the one or more lines of weakness.
48. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the method comprises removing the dental crown form before hardening the hardenable dental material.
49. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 48, further comprising shaping the hardenable dental material after removing the dental crown form and before hardening the hardenable dental material.
50. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the dental crown form further comprises a liner located within the body, the liner positioned between the body and the hardenable dental material, wherein removing the dental crown form comprises simultaneously removing the liner.

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51. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 50, wherein the one or more lines of weakness comprise one or more perforations formed through the body.
52. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the dental crown form further comprises a liner located within the body, the liner positioned between the body and the hardenable dental material, wherein the liner remains on the dental material after removing the dental crown form.
53. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 52, wherein the method comprises removing the liner before hardening the hardenable dental material.
54. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 52, further comprising shaping the hardenable dental material after removing the liner and before hardening the hardenable dental material.
55. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 52, further comprising shaping the hardenable dental material before removing the liner and before hardening the hardenable dental material.
56. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 52, wherein the hardenable dental material comprises a photocurable material, and wherein the liner transmits actinic radiation capable of hardening the hardenable dental material.
57. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein each line of weakness of the one or more lines of weakness comprises a notch formed at one end thereof.

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58. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein each line of weakness of the one or more lines of weakness extends from proximate the base towards the incisal/occlusal region of the body.

59. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the one or more lines of weakness comprises only one line of weakness extending from proximate the base on one side of the body, over the incisal/occlusal region, and terminating proximate the base of an opposing side of the body.

60. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, further comprising one or more tabs attached to the body, wherein removing the dental crown form comprises grasping the one or more tabs to separate the one or more lines of weakness.

61. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, further comprising two tabs attached to the body, wherein the two tabs are located on opposing sides of the body, and wherein removing the dental crown form comprises grasping the two tabs to separate the one or more lines of weakness.

62. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the method comprises removing the dental crown form after at least partially hardening the hardenable dental material.

63. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the dental crown form further comprises a hollow handle defining a handle volume that is in fluid communication with the tooth-shaped volume of the body through a vent opening formed in the body, and wherein the method further comprises forcing a portion of the hardenable dental material into the handle volume when locating the dental crown form over the prepared tooth.

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64. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 63, wherein substantially all of the hardenable dental material is retained within the body or the hollow handle after locating the dental crown form over the prepared tooth.
65. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, wherein the method comprises removing the dental crown form after at least partially hardening the hardenable dental material.
66. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, further comprising removing the dental crown form from a hermetically sealed package with the hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body before the dental crown form is removed from the package.
67. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 47, further comprising removing the dental crown form from an actinic light barrier package with the hardenable dental material located within the tooth-shaped volume of the body before the dental crown form is removed from the package.